

STATE	Montana	
PROJECT	F-7-R-1	
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QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT FOR
INVESTIGATIONS PROJECTS

As Required by

FEDERAL AID IN FISH AND WILDLIFE RESTORATION ACTS

1. Title of Project: Northwest Montana Fishery Study
2. Leader: Frank A. Stefanich, Biologist
3. Report of Progress:

Job I-A: Contribution of Hatchery Reared Trout to Total Catch.
Inactive during report period.

Job II-A: Inventory of the Project Area's Waters from the Stand-point of Physical and Chemical Characteristics.
Some temperatures were taken of Flathead Lake while looking for kokanee spawning beds. Temperatures were taken also on a few of the tributaries of Swan River, and Sullivan Creek. Samples of water have been analyzed for dissolved solids from five streams.

Job II-B: Inventory of the Project Area's Waters from the Stand-point of Fish Response to Environment.
Lions Creek of the Swan River Drainage, Ashley Creek, Stillwater River, Little Bitterroot River and South Fork of the Flathead River have been sampled for stream populations and scale samples were taken. One lake was poisoned after it was almost drained out to determine populations. Scale samples from fish caught in Condon Creek and Smith Creek have been taken. This project is still in an active state.

Job III-A: Natural Reproduction of Kokanee in Flathead Lake and Tributaries.
Twenty-one areas have been located around Flathead Lake where kokanee were found spawning. All of the tributaries have been checked and spawning was observed in Stillwater River, Whitefish River, Flathead River, North Fork of Flathead River, MacDonald Creek, Middle Fork of the Flathead River, Swan River and Spring Creek. Kokanee were caught in September in the South Fork of the Flathead River at Hungry Horse Dam. Barriers that stopped progress upstream of the kokanee were found on Stillwater River, and Swan River. This project is proceeding according to schedule.

Job IV-A: Establishing Measures of Abundance of Cutthroat Trout in Ashley Lake.

Records have been made of fish caught in the spawning traps of the tributaries. Twelve fish were tagged and two were caught by anglers this season. Insufficient data is available on gill net sets as yet.

Job IV-B: Developing Measures to Determine Kokanee Abundance in Flathead Lake.

The number of fish caught per net haul have been made during the spawn taking operations at the different spawning areas. Fisherman's catch are being taken by resort owners. The rest of the work is proceeding according to schedule.

Job V-A: Effectiveness of Smith Lake Rearing Pond.

Work finished; job completion report attached.

Job VI-A: Grayling Spawning Areas for Rogers Lake.

Inactive during report period.

Job VII-A: The Effects of Logging on Pinkham's Fish Population.

Work finished; job completion report attached.

Submitted by:

Name Frank A. Stefanich

Title Biologist

Approved by:

Montana State Department of Fish and Game

By

R. N. Lambuth

Title State Game Warden

Date January 7, 1952